

# **VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION** **2007 RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS** **FOR VIRGINIA'S MARINE WATERS** **SIZE and POSSESSION LIMITS**

## **AMERICAN EEL**

Minimum Size Limit.....6 inches  
 Possession Limit.....50 per person

## **AMBERJACK**

Minimum Size Limit.....32 inches  
 Possession Limit.....2 per person

## **BLACK DRUM (DRUM, DRUMFISH)**

Minimum Size Limit.....16 inches  
 Possession Limit.....1 per person

## **BLACK SEA BASS**

Minimum Size Limit.....12 inches  
 Possession Limit.....25 per person

## **BLUEFISH**

Minimum Size Limit.....None  
 Possession Limit.....10 per person

## **COBIA**

Minimum Size Limit.....37 inches  
 Possession Limit.....1 per person

## **GRAY TROUT (WEAKFISH)**

Minimum Size Limit.....12 inches  
 Possession Limit (through September 30, 2007).....7 per person  
 Possession Limit (on or after October 1, 2007).....6 per person

## **GROUPE (All Species, including Wreckfish)**

Minimum Size Limit.....None  
 Possession Limit.....1 per person

## **KING MACKEREL**

Minimum Size Limit.....27 inches  
 Possession Limit.....3 per person

## **RED DRUM (CHANNEL BASS, REDFISH)**

Minimum Size Limit.....18 inches  
 Maximum Size Limit.....26 inches  
 Possession Limit.....3 per person

## **SCUP (PORGY)**

Minimum Size Limit.....8 inches  
 Possession Limit.....50 per person

## **SHAD (AMERICAN SHAD) (Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries)**

Season.....Closed; Illegal to possess

## **SHEEPSHEAD**

Minimum Size Limit.....None  
 Possession Limit.....4 per person

## **SPADEFISH**

Minimum Size Limit.....None  
 Possession Limit.....4 per person

**All Regulations are Subject to Change.**  
**It is the Angler's Responsibility to Know**  
**and Abide by all Current Regulations and**  
**Laws. Check for New Regulations**  
**Before You Go Fishing.**

September 2007



## **SPANISH MACKEREL**

Minimum Size Limit.....14 inches  
 Possession Limit.....15 per person

## **SPECKLED TROUT (SPOTTED SEATROUT)**

Minimum Size Limit.....14 inches  
 Possession Limit.....10 per person

## **STRIPED BASS (ROCKFISH, STRIPER)**

**Regulations on Seasons, Size Limits, Possession Limits,**  
**Available on Separate Regulation Card or From the Virginia**  
**Marine Resources Commission. (For contact information see Below.)**

## **STURGEON**

Illegal to possess

## **SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE)**

Minimum Size Limit.....18.5 inches  
 Possession Limit.....5 per person

Season Closed .....January 1-March 31 and July 23-July 28

## **TAUTOG**

Minimum Size Limit.....14 inches  
 Possession Limit.....7 per person

## **TILEFISH (Blueline, Golden & Sand Tilefish)**

Minimum Size Limit.....None  
 Possession Limit.....7 per person

## **SHARKS (ALL SPECIES EXCEPT SPINY AND SMOOTH DOG SHARKS)**

Minimum Size Limit.....54 inches fork length\*\*  
 Possession Limit.....1 per vessel\*\*\*

Federal waters beyond the three mile limit governed by different  
 Regulations set by the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

\* Prohibited Species – It is illegal to take, catch or possess any shark from the "prohibited  
 shark group," as defined in regulation 4VAC20-490-20, including but not limited to the  
 following species commonly encountered in Virginia: Atlantic Angel, Dusky, Sand Tiger,  
 White, and Bigeye Thresher Sharks. No size or possession limits apply to Dog Sharks.

\*\* Any shark carcass (body minus head and tail) in possession must measure 30 inches  
 in length or longer; no minimum size limit applies to Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead  
 Sharks.

\*\*\* Possession limit for Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead Sharks is 1 per person.

## **ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS**

**Saltwater Fishing License** – Individual license required in the Chesapeake Bay and  
 its tributary rivers and in all seaside and coastal ocean waters out to the Three Mile  
 Limit Line, unless fishing on a licensed pier, licensed charter or headboat, or licensed  
 private boat; or unless specifically exempted.

**Measurements** – Size limits are total length measurements; fish must be measured  
 from tip of nose to tip of tail, except Black Sea Bass, which are measured from tip of  
 nose along the centerline of the body, to the center of the tail.

**Snagging** – Illegal to snag, or attempt to snag, any finfish.

**All Regulations are Subject to Change. It is the Angler's Responsibility to Know**  
**and abide by all Current Regulations and Laws. Check for New Regulations Before**  
**You Go Fishing.**

## **Regulations Information, including Updates and Changes.**

Information on the most current regulations can be obtained from the Virginia  
 Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Ave., Newport News, Virginia  
 23607, (757) 247-2200; from the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 968  
 South Oriole Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451, (757) 491-5160; and from the  
 Virginia Marine Resources Commission internet website at, [www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)